

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending and rejected in this application. Claim 1 is amended hereby and claims 9 and 10 are canceled hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-16 and 19-23 under 35 USC section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,230,743 (Nakamura, et al.), Applicants have amended claim 1 and submit that claims 1-8, 11-16 and 19-23 are now in condition for allowance.

Nakamura et al. disclose a process for producing pressure sensitive copying paper (Figs. 3 and 4) using coating solution 1 containing microcapsules as a main component. A wind shielding plate 11 is placed up stream of the contact area so that the free fall of the material reaches web 9 without being disturbed (column 4, lines 8-55). The coating apparatus shown in Fig. 4 has a first coating apparatus and a second coating apparatus positioned subsequent to the first coating apparatus in the direction of flow of web 9. Web 9 goes through a first curtain and a second curtain flow as it proceeds in the direction of the arrow shown on web 9 of Fig. 4. The second coating layer is formed on the first coating layer while the first coating layer is in an undried state (column 7, lines 1-50).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

a first curtain applicator unit ... discharging the first application medium ...; and
a second curtain applicator unit ... discharging the second application medium ...
at least one of the first application medium and the second application medium
having a solids content in an approximate range of 5% by weight to 70% by
weight, at least one of the first application medium and the second application
medium having a Brookfield viscosity determined at 100 rev/min of between about
10 mPas and about 2,000 mPas.

(Emphasis Added) Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by Nakamura, et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes advantages thereover.

Nakamura, et al. disclose a process for producing pressure sensitive copying paper including a coating solution that contains microcapsules as a main component. However, Nakamura, et al. fails to disclose or teach a first curtain applicator discharging the first application medium; and a second curtain applicator unit discharging the second application medium at least one of the first application medium and the second application medium having a solids content in an approximate range of 5% by weight to 70% by weight. At least one of the first application medium and the second application medium having a Brookfield viscosity determined at 100 rev/min of between about 10 mPas and about 2,000 mPas, as recited in amended claim 1.

The present invention is set forth by amended claim 1 has distinct advantages over Nakamura, et al. and the other cited references. An advantage of the present invention is that two application curtains are located proximate to each other. Another advantage is that when a vacuum is utilized between the curtains, the separation of pre-coat curtain 28 from guide doctor 36 and the wetting of top coat 26 on pre-coat 20 are improved. Another advantage is that if positive pressure is applied to the curtains then pre-coat 20 is anchored better on paper web 14 and both curtains 28 and 30 are stabilized since positive pressure reduces there tendency to flutter. Yet another advantage of the present invention is at least one of the application mediums have a Brookfield viscosity of between 10 mPas and 2,000 mPas. For all the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 and claims 2-8, 11-16 and 19-23 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,136,970 (Sato, et al.). However, claim 18 depends from claim 1, and claim 1 has been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 18 is now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,976,630 (Korokeyi). However, claim 17 depends from claim 1 and claim 1 has been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 17 is now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

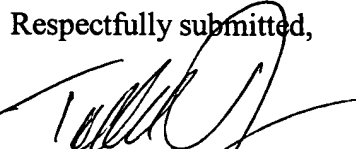
Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,842,900 (Miyamoto). However, claim 17 depends from claim 1 and claim 1 has been placing condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 17 is now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefore and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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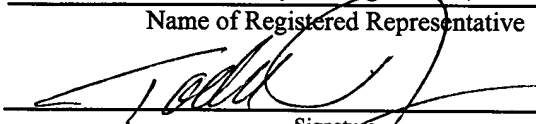
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
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